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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,507	08/25/2003	Vijay Mital	MSFT-1948/301410.01	4233
41505 7590 07/20/2007 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			EXAMINER RADTKE, MARK A	
			ART UNIT 2165	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/20/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/648,507

Applicant(s)

MITAL ET AL.

Examiner

Mark A. X Radtke

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 16, 18 and 21-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 16, 18 and 21-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 8 May 2007, claim(s) 8-15, 17, 19 and 20 are cancelled, claim(s) 1 and 16 is/are amended, and new claim(s) 25-31 is/are added per Applicant's request. Therefore, claims 1-7, 16, 18 and 21-31 are presently pending in the application, of which, claim(s) 1, 16 and 25 is/are presented in independent form.
2. Applicant's amendments have necessitated new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 18 recites the limitation "system of claim 17" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 17 has been canceled. For the purposes of examination, it will be assumed that claim 18 depends from claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-7, 16, 18 and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tracey (U.S. Pat. No. 6,795,071), and further in view of Hiramatsu ("Interworkflow System: Coordination of Each Workflow System Among Multiple Organizations" from Cooperative Information Systems, 1998. Proceedings. 3rd IFCIS International Conference on).

As to claim 1, Tracey teaches a method for associating an application entity managed by an application with a plurality of related service entities managed by a plurality of application services, the application maintaining application metadata corresponding to the application entity, the application services maintaining service metadata corresponding to the related service entities (see Abstract), the method comprising:

 matching the related service entities based on the service metadata (see column 8, lines 26-47);

 combining the related service entities into a context entity that is a single entity derived from one or more service entities (see column 18, lines 37-50);

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combining service metadata corresponding to the context entity into context metadata (see column 20, lines 21-23);

matching the application entity to the context entity based on the application metadata and the context metadata (see column 21, lines 12-26);

determining a state of each service entity within a corresponding business process administered by the application service that manages the service entity (see column 22, line 47 and columns 23-24, Table 1);

determining dynamic actions available on the related service entities, the available dynamic actions comprising an indication of whether a state change is available on each service entity within its corresponding business process (see column 31, lines 3-18 and columns 31-35, "Event Generation"); and

generating a display of the state of each service entity within its corresponding business process and the available dynamic actions (see column 31, lines 3-18).

Tracey does not explicitly teach wherein the business process comprises different business processes.

Hiramatsu teaches wherein the business process comprises different business processes (see section 5.1, number 2, "different workflow management systems").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Tracey by the teaching of Hiramatsu because "it is difficult to apply this management system to coordinate business among more than two organizations" (see Hiramatsu, Abstract).

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As to claims 2, 18 and 26, Tracey, as modified, teaches wherein matching the related service entities comprises matching the related service entities based on attributes of the related service entities (see column 8, lines 26-47).

As to claims 3 and 27, Tracey, as modified, teaches wherein matching the application entity to the context entity comprises matching the application entity to the context entity based on attributes of the application entity and attributes of the context entity (see column 31, lines 42-55).

As to claims 4, 23 and 28, Tracey, as modified, teaches further comprising obtaining service metadata corresponding to the related service entities (see columns 23-24, Table 1).

As to claims 5, 21-22 and 29, Tracey, as modified, teaches wherein obtaining the service metadata corresponding to the related service entities to the application comprises:

determining at a context service static actions available on the related service entities (see column 27, lines 16-21); and

querying an action service to determine dynamic actions available on the related service entities (see columns 29-30, "Menus").

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As to claims 6 and 30, Tracey, as modified, teaches further comprising providing the service metadata corresponding to the related service entities to the application (see columns 23-24, Table 1).

As to claims 7 and 31, Tracey, as modified, teaches wherein providing the service metadata corresponding to the related service entities to the application comprises providing static and dynamic actions available on the related service entities to the application (see column 31, lines 3-18).

As to claim 16, Tracey teaches a system for managing at an application a first service entity at a first application service (see Abstract), the system comprising:

For the remaining steps of this claim applicant(s) is/are directed to the remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.

As to claim 24, Tracey, as modified, teaches wherein managing the first service entity at the application using the service metadata comprises:

generating at the application a display of the static and dynamic actions available on the first service entity (see column 31, lines 3-18); and

selecting from the display at the application an action to be performed on the first service entity at the first application service (see columns 31-35, "Event Generation").

As to claim 25, Tracey teaches a computer readable storage medium for associating an application entity (see Abstract):

For the remaining steps of this claim applicant(s) is/are directed to the remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on 8 May 2007 with respect to the rejected claims in view of the cited references have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds for rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

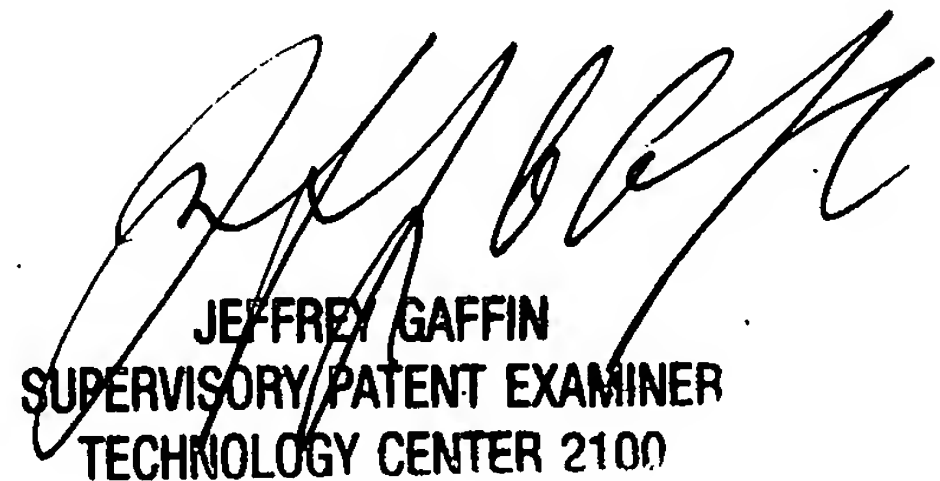
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to the examiner, Mark A. Radtke. The examiner's telephone number is (571) 272-7163, and the examiner can normally be reached between 9 AM and 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to contact the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached at (571) 272-4146.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Customer Service at (800) 786-9199.

maxr

18 July 2007



JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY/PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100